WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bumper structure uesful for attachment to a front of a vehicle, comprising an elongated bumper beam having a front face provided with at least one rearwardly depressed portion extending lengthwise of said bumper beam, a compressable energy absorbing foam material extending lengthwise of said bumper beam, and a bumper fascia covering said foam material, said foam material having a first portion received in said depressed portion and a second portion protruded forwardly from said front face of said bumper beam such that said second portion is compressed in said depressed portion upon receipt of a collision impact.

2. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said front face has upper and lower ends and wherein said at least one depressed portion is provided between said upper and lower ends to form a U-shaped recess.

3. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said front face has upper and lower ends and wherein said at least one depressed portion is provided at at least one of said upper and lower ends to form upper and/or lower stepped portions in said front face.

4. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an energy absorbing body provided at a front end of said second portion of said foam material and having a vertical length greater than a vertical length of said depressed portion.

5. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foam material has a length in the front to rear direction of L1 and said second portion of said foam material has a length in the front to rear direction of L2,

and wherein the ratio L2/L1 is in the range of 0.4 to 0.9.

6. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an energy absorbing body provided on a portion of said front face other than said depressed portion.

7. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein said foam material has a length in the front to rear direction of L1, said second portion of said foam material has a length in the front to rear direction of L2 and said energy absorbing body has a thickness in the front to rear direction of L4, and wherein the ratio (L2-L4)/L1 is in the range of 0.4 to 0.9.

8. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foam material is a polyolefin-based resin foam.

9. A bumper structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foam material is a polypropylene-based resin foam having an apparent density of 0.11 to 0.025 g/cm^3.